

THE CHACE CHRONICLE

CHACE COMMUNITY SCHOOL'S STUDENT MAGAZINE

5TH EDITION
FEB/MARCH



CELEBRATING
LGBTQ+ HISTORY
MONTH AND WOMEN'S
HISTORY MONTH



SHEDDING LIGHT ON MENTAL HEALTH

by Dorcas Mayazi-Vubu

During this COVID-19 pandemic, many of us have been affected mentally in a negative way which has taken a toll on our education. Mental health is a prominent aspect in our lives as it affects our emotional and social wellbeing. Lockdown has made every interaction digital and devoid of human contact, something that has greatly affected our social lives and has caused a huge ripple effect on our mental health. During the process of writing this article, I have contacted peers from our school about how they feel about this lockdown. From colloquial evidence, many of my peers have expressed an increase in loneliness, lack of motivation and a loss of passion. You are not alone in experiencing these feelings – they affect people around you and those who care about you. Suffering from a men-

tal health problem or disorder, such as depression, can lead you to act distantly from friends and family. This can have a knock-on effect in the effort you put into homework and essays, which could lead to bad grades in school, as well as changes in your appearance (for example not trying to look presentable when going out to public places). Lockdown has shed light on many things, mental health being one. The influx of suicide repostings has exposed the realities of stigmatised issues such as depression, symptoms of which include feelings of unhappiness and decreased enjoyment of life. If you think you have experienced any of these symptoms, please feel open and comfortable to contact the school and helplines listed on the next page.



THE BLOOD COUNTESS
A CHILLING TALE



THE SECRETS OF ELON
MUSK'S MINDSET



CLOSE TO THE EDGE
'A TRIUMPH IN THE TRUEST SENSE'

As a community at Chace, we value mental health and are committed to being open about any problems you may have.

Don't forget to look out for one another and always ask if someone is okay more than once.

If you need someone to talk to –

Samaritans: 116 123
Childline: 0800 1111
Papyrus: 0800 068 4141
Calm: 0800 585858

PAPYRUS
 No young person should have to suffer alone with thoughts of suicide.
 HOPELINEUK
 Call: 0800 068 4141
 Text: 07786209697
 Email: pat@papyrus-uk.org
 www.papyrus-uk.org
 Registered charity no. 1070896

Talk to us any time you like, in your own way – about whatever's getting to you.

116 123 FREE
 This number is FREE to call

jo@samaritans.org
 samaritans.org

SAMARITANS

5PM-MIDNIGHT NO MATTER WHAT

0800 58 58 58 THECALMZONE.NET/WECHAT

5PM-MIDNIGHT | FREE | CONFIDENTIAL | ANONYMOUS

CAMPAIGN AGAINST LIVING MISERABLY
CALM

HOW TO ASK A FRIEND IF THEY'RE OK

When you're worried about someone, sometimes the best thing you can do is listen and let them know you're there for them.



HAVING THE CHAT

- Pick the right place - somewhere quiet and away from other people.
- Try to remove any distractions before you start.
- Don't push it - if they say they don't want to talk, let them know you're there if they change their mind.



STARTING THE CONVERSATION

- 'Hey, how have you been lately? What's been happening?'
- 'You haven't seemed yourself lately. Is there something you'd like to talk about?'
- 'How are you doing? Anything you want to chat about?'



HOW TO RESPOND

- Be a good listener by paying attention, asking questions and checking you've understood what they've said.
- Don't try to solve the problem for them.
- Ask them why they may be feeling that way.
- Let them know you're there for them.
- Don't judge what they say, even if you don't agree with them.



IF THEY SAY THEY'RE NOT OK

- Ask them what's going on for them, listen and acknowledge their feelings.
- Ask what they think will help them to feel better.
- If you feel like they need more support you could ask if they've considered talking to an adult they trust or seeing a mental health professional.
- If you're worried about their safety, let someone know.



Self-care and support for young people

Some coping strategies are more helpful than others. As with any skill, we can always learn new ways of dealing with stress.

Here's some **self-care tips** to help **protect against stress:**

Try

Nurture your physical health – body and mind are connected, so eat regular meals and find a fun form of exercise that suits you and your schedule.

Set aside time to have fun or do something nice for yourself – positive emotions can help build a buffer against stress.

Spend time on an activity you enjoy – whether painting, playing guitar, or learning a new sport.

Talk to someone – tell a trusted friend or family member about how you're feeling, or chat online on a support site like **Childline** or **The Mix**.

Avoid

Overdoing it on caffeine, alcohol or sugar – they're a quick fix which can increase stress in the long term.

Overworking – we all need time to unwind so try to build in short, regular breaks while you're studying, working or revising.

Chasing perfection – it can create unrealistic expectations. It's not fair to compare yourself, as a whole person, to social media highlights from someone else's life.

Too much screen time – it can affect your sleep, so try to switch off now and then, and don't feel pressured to always be reading, watching or playing something.

Bottling up your feelings and assuming they will go away – this can make things worse in the long run.

If you're struggling to manage your stress, don't keep it to yourself – there is no shame in seeking help.

A good place to start can be talking to your GP, your parent or carer, or a counsellor at your school/college/university.

There are also plenty of organisations out there who can help. See a **list of support organisations at mhfaengland.org**



GROUNDBREAKING LGBTQ+ FIGURES YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

by Theodora Thomas



Storme DeLarverie (1920-2014)

A groundbreaking drag performer and gay rights and civil rights activist, widely believed to be the woman who started the fight back against the police during the Stonewall raid of 1969, an event that helped define a change in LGBTQ+ rights activism. She yelled to the crowd 'Why don't you do something?', calling to action the other patrons, including Marsha P Johnson and Sylvia Rivera, to resist.

Marsha P Johnson (1945-1992)



A gay liberation activist and an African-American transgender woman who was a prominent figure in Stonewall uprising. Johnson co-founded the gay and transvestite advocacy organization S.T.A.R. (Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries), alongside close friend Sylvia Rivera. Her body was discovered in the Hudson River after the 1992 pride parade. Police initially ruled her death suicide however it is widely believed she was the victim of a transphobic attack, and in 2012 it was ruled 'undetermined'.

Sylvia Rivera (1951-2002)

A Latina American gay liberation and transgender rights activist who identified as a drag queen. Rivera began living on the streets at the age of 11 after disapproval from her family and worked as a child prostitute. She was taken in by the local community of drag queens, who gave her the name Sylvia. Rivera was the founding member of both the Gay Liberation Front and the Gay Activists Alliance. ookRivera also co-founded the STAR (Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries), a group dedicated to helping homeless young drag queens, LGBTQ+ youth and trans women, with her close friend Marsha P Johnson.



'I'm not missing a minute of this. It's the revolution!'

Sylvia Rivera

WHAT WAS THE STONEWALL UPRISING?

The Stonewall Uprising (also known as the Stonewall riots) was a series of spontaneous demonstrations by the LGBTQ+ community sparked by police raids at the Stonewall Inn (a gay club) in Greenwich village, New York City on June 28, 1969. When police became violent, patrons of the club fought back.

At the time, solicitation of same-sex relations was illegal in New York and the state liquor authority shut down establishments that served alcohol to LGBTQ+ individuals until 1966, forcing members of the community to congregate in places like Stonewall. However, the state authorised raids of gay bars by police officers, who forced patrons to show identification and subjected cross-dressers to body searches under the threat of arrest.

The Stonewall Inn was bought by the Genovese crime family (who were part of the mafia) in 1966 as they saw the potential for profit. Police were bribed by the family to ignore what was happening in the club and as a result, conditions for patrons were beyond subpar, with no running water to wash glasses or even a flushing toilet. Despite this, the Inn was a hub for New Yorkers in the LGBTQ+ community who felt rejected by other institutions – it was a space where they could freely express themselves and dance together (something that remained illegal).

In the early hours of the 28th June 1969, police entered the inn and raided the premises, arresting 13 people (both employees dispensing bootlegged alcohol and people who were violating New York's law against cross-dressing – the state had a criminal statute meaning that anyone not wearing at least three pieces of gender-appropriate clothing could be arrested). Patrons of the Stonewall and surrounding neighbours formed a group outside the bar in response to the police harassment and aggression, refusing to back down when the police manhandled patrons. A riot began shortly after and police barricaded themselves within the bar (which was set on fire at one point) until eventually the crowd of about four hundred people was dispersed.

The uprising continued for five days, driven by a revolt against the social discrimination faced by the LGBTQ+ community for decades. The event was a catalyst for the gay rights movement, leading to the creation of the Gay Liberation Front (GLF), the Gay Activists Alliance (GAA), GLAAD (formerly Gay and Lesbian Alliance against Defamation) and Human Rights Campaign.

In June 2019, James P. O'Neill, New York City's police commissioner, apologised on behalf of the police department 50 years after the Stonewall Uprising, stating that 'the actions taken by the NYPD were wrong – plain and simple'.



The Stonewall Inn today

Alan Turing (1912-1954)

A mathematician who played a pivotal role in cracking coded messages that enabled the Allies to defeat the Nazis in WW2. Turing was convicted of 'gross indecency' for having a relationship with 19 year old Arnold Murray in 1952, and as punishment underwent chemical castration. He took his own life at the age of 41 after using cyanide to poison an apple. Turing was eventually pardoned in 2013, which led to new legislation pardoning all gay men under historical gross indecency laws.



Bayard Rustin (1921-1987)



A close friend and advisor to Martin Luther King Jr. and the organiser of the 1963 March on Washington. Rustin's vital role in the civil rights movement went unrecognised as he was an openly gay man.

Rustin was forced to work behind the scenes to prevent controversy and lies spread by the media about the nature of the relationship between the two men. Despite this, Rustin still remained a political and gay activist, working to bring the AIDS crisis to the NAACP's attention.

Ruth Ellis (1899-2000)

An African-American woman widely known as the oldest surviving open lesbian and LGBT rights activist at the age of 101. She came out 1915, at a time when lesbians were expected to hide their sexuality, and married her partner Ceciline Franklin soon after. Ellis was an LGBTQ+ activist throughout her lifetime and welcomed African-American LGBTQ+ people into the home providing shelter and support. The Ruth Ellis Centre was opened in Detroit in 1999 to provide support to homeless and at-risk LGBTQ+ children and teenagers.



Gilbert Baker (1951-2017)

An American artist, gay rights activist who designed the rainbow flag, a symbol widely associated with LGBT+ rights, which debuted in 1978. Baker did not trademark the flag as he said it was a symbol for everyone.



Barbara Gittings (1932-2007)

Gittings is regarded widely as the mother of the LGBTQ+ civil rights movement. Before Stonewall, she the organiser of Daughters of Bilitis, the first lesbian civil and political rights organisation in the United States. In the 1970s, she was a prominent member of the American Psychiatric Association's fight to get homosexuality removed from the list of psychiatric disorders. In 2006, The APA recognised her work by awarding her its first annual civil rights award.

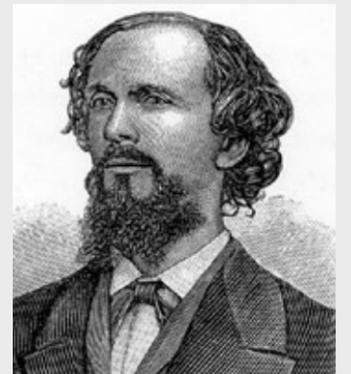
Audre Lorde (1934-1992)

A self-described "black, lesbian, mother, warrior, poet" – Lorde was an African-American poet and essayist whose work confronted issues of racism, classism, sexism and homophobia. She greatly influenced conversations surrounding intersectional feminism, as she provided an alternative perspective to her straight, white, middle-class peers, and was central to Black cultural movements and the fight for LGBTQ+ equality.



Karl Heinrich Ulrichs (1825-1895)

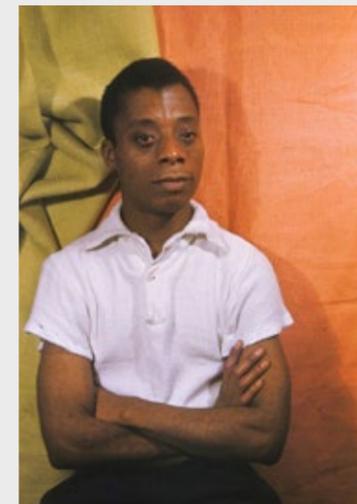
A German lawyer, jurist, journalist, and writer who is regarded as a pioneer of the modern gay rights movement. He argued that same-sex attraction was innate, and that those who experienced it should be treated the same as anyone else. In August 29, 1867, Ulrichs spoke in Munich at the Congress of Jurists to demand legal equal rights for all sexualities.



James Baldwin (1924-1987)

An American novelist, playwright, essayist, poet and activist who explored themes of race, sexuality and class.

In his novel *Giovanni's Room*, Baldwin's ultimate message is that love is a force that transcends sex and gender – what matters is that two people love each other.



'Love him and let him love you. Do you think anything else under heaven really matters?'

James Baldwin



Josephine Baker (1921-1987)

Josephine Baker was a well-known entertainer of the Jazz Age and identified as bisexual. She was one of the most successful African-American performers in French history and used her platform as an entertainer to advocate for desegregation, refusing to perform in segregated venues and even speaking at the 1963 March on Washington. Baker also served as a spy for the French during World War II, passing along secrets she heard while performing

Ifti Nasim (1946-2011)

Ifti Nasim was a gay muslim poet from Pakistan who moved to the United States in 1969 to avoid persecution for his sexuality. His collection of poems, Narman is thought to be the first gay-themed book of poetry written and published in Urdu. He also founded SANGAT/Chicago, an organization which supported the South Asian LGBTQ community.



Lili Elbe (1882-1931)

A pioneering Danish transgender woman who was one of the first recipients of gender reassignment surgery. Elbe began a relationship with French art dealer Claude Lejeune, whom she wanted to marry and with whom she wanted to have children. She was looking forward to her final surgery involving a uterus transplant.

However, her immune system rejected the transplanted uterus, however, and she developed an infection. She died in 1931, three months after the surgery, of cardiac arrest brought on by the infection at the age of 48. Reflecting on her life after her first surgery, Elbe wrote to her family that 'It may be said that 14 months is not much, but they seem to me like a whole and happy human life.'



Alexander the Great (356-323 BC)

King of the ancient Greek kingdom of Macedon. The ruler's most controversial relationship was with a young Persian man named Bagoas, who Alexander kissed publicly at a festival of athletics and arts.



John-Michel Basquiat (1960-1988)

American neo-expressionist artist of Haitian and Puerto Rican descent who had relations with both men and women. His art explores culture, history, mythology, marginalisation and self-identity, themes symbolised by human heads and figures. In 1988, he died of a heroin overdose at his art studio at the age of 27. At a Sotheby's auction in 2017, Untitled sold for \$110.5 million, becoming one of the most expensive paintings ever purchased (the purchase also set a new record high for an American artist at auction).



David Hockney (1937-)

One of the most influential artists of the 20th Century. Many of Hockney's works feature gay imagery and themes, particularly 'Domestic Scene, Los Angeles' which depicts the intimate act of washing between two men.



Alfred Kinsey (1894-1956)

A bisexual researcher in the field of biology and sexology. He was the creator of The Kinsey Scale, which measures sexuality on a scale of 0 (exclusively heterosexual) to 6 (exclusively homosexual).

Kinsey's groundbreaking research suggested sexuality is not binary, but instead is a spectrum and can change over time. The category of "x" was later added to the scale to represent asexuality, and others who may not experience sexual attraction.



'The heterosexuality or homosexuality of many individuals is not an all-or-none proposition'

Alfred Kinsey

INSPIRING WOMEN

Celebrating the impact of women in your lives this Women's History Month

No one person should ever be put on a pedestal as we are all flawed and no person however great is without mistakes and controversy. Lots of people have educated and helped me, there was once an old lady on a train platform who chatted to me. It may have been just a conversation she forgot, but that day I was feeling really stressed and unhappy and that chat meant to world to me. Also the friend who told me off when I was being mean, I hated her at the time for not supporting me but she was right. My Mum stood up for someone she hardly knew against her very good friend which takes courage to face that level of awkwardness. There are lots of women who have had their brave contribution to history wiped out because they were women/ mixed race, for example Noor Inayat Khan, a British spy who saved British airman and carried on sending messages in the heart of occupied France even though she knew she would be killed if caught. But you don't have to do great acts of daring or die to play your part. My Nan was a WAAF like Noor and mostly spent the war mopping the floor and going to dances but she volunteered and showed up and we can all do that. Speak up! Show up!

- Ms Cox

Noor Inayat Khan



Mum

Literally every woman I know. Like feminist sociologist Fran Ansley said, 'women are the takers of s**t'. Every woman has suffered from the patriarchy at different degrees whether she knows it or not. We are strong as hell and continue to be. All women inspire me.

My friend Madison in school. I vibe with her so much and I usually have trust issues but she's really positive and always looks out for everyone. She's super motivating

Marie Curie. She revolutionised science, won two Nobels while doing so and discovered elements Polonium and Radium. She also died as a result of her work, showing true commitment to science!

- David Buck



Marie Curie

My Mum has been a constant inspiration to be as she has always managed to combine not just being a Mother, but also my best friend, she is always the first person I can turn to no matter the problem. She has successfully managed to overcome a very difficult childhood and not let it overshadow her life. She has faced many challenges, the latest of which is being a full time carer for my Dad. She is always the first to laugh and offer a loving word or smile.

- Ms Martin

Lorna McHale

- Mr Holloway

Laura Jane Grace

Rosa Parks because she wanted equality as she didn't give up her seat for a white man.



Rosa Parks

A woman who has inspired me is Billie Eilish because she is not afraid to be different and does not care what others think. I believe this is inspirational because it shows us that you can achieve lots and be liked by millions by just being yourself.

My mum inspires me to do the best I can and stay strong.

Ms Tanya Douglas inspires me because she is fearless, fair and kind and she is leading the way for Black female teachers. She is a role model to staff and students and is an ethical, proactive and inspiring leader.

Kayleigh McEnany. She defends her beliefs staunchly despite negative environmental pressures.

My mother, who has on numerous occasions beaten the odds and overcome an illness that many doctors warned she wouldn't. She is a truly inspiring example of how it is possibly to overcome seemingly insurmountable odds.

Mother Teresa - Her sacrifices to help people with their health as well as taking the time to truly see the effects of reality in society & she simply exuded kindness & light for people who needed that more than anything.

A woman who inspires me is a author called Holly Jackson. She wrote my favourite books (A Good Girl's Guide to Murder and Good Girl, Bad Blood). I love her style of writing and the imaginative and interesting story plot. She has achieved so much which makes me believe I can do the same.



Mother Teresa



Billie Eilish

THE MACABRE TALE OF THE BLOOD COUNTESS

BY MAJA VARGA

Have you ever heard scratching from within your wardrobe or the walls of your home? Well, it may be the vengeful spirit of the Blood Countess...



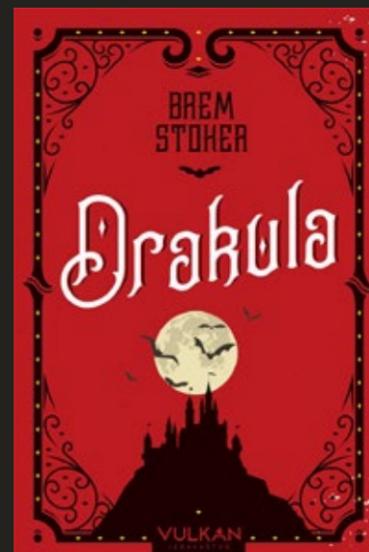
Elizabeth Báthory, the horrifying murderess wrapped in fabrications and events far too horrible to imagine, was a Hungarian noblewoman born in 1560 suspected of murdering and torturing six hundred and fifty young women. You may have heard several remedies to maintain one's youth such as the anti-aging creams advertised on television or Cleopatra bathing in milk to keep her skin beautiful. Well, Elizabeth believed that in order to maintain her beauty she must bathe in the blood of innocent, young girls from her own country. But how was this

nightmare in the shape of human created? Read on if you dare.

Sinister tales surrounded Báthory's entire family from the very beginning – they were rumoured to be witches and Satanists or merciless torturers that left even Elizabeth's most innocent years to be tainted by violence. And this bloody trail does not end with her ancestors – there were rumours that after her marriage to the Count Ferenc Nádasdy she had a child with a lower-class man who was later castrated and then torn to pieces by vicious hounds.

Erzsébet Báthory, born 7th Aug 1560 and died 21st Aug 1614

It may have been due to her family's power and influence that Elizabeth was able to continue her bloodthirsty ways – it took many years after the complaint of a minister for the court with the authorisation of King Matthias II to cease the rampage of this tyrannous monster. Suddenly, everyone, every class within the Čachtice Castle were under investigation, which was once Elizabeth's home and would soon also become her prison. The victims that emerged during the investigation were poor and vulnerable, mostly between the ages of ten and fourteen who were lured in by Countess herself with the promise that they would become wealthy maids. Women were vanishing, not only those of the lower classes which the world had turned a blind eye to, but soon noble, wealthy women were also beginning to disappear and die in Čachtice Castle and this was followed by a deluge of witnesses along with a torrent of atrocities that make many people believe that Elizabeth may have been the inspiration for Bram Stoker's novel "Dracula".



As mentioned before, Elizabeth's family was very powerful and influential that they obtained large amounts of land, wealth and even King Matthias II was indebted to them (this was probably the reason Elizabeth did not have a public trial to prevent further dishonour to fall upon the Báthory family in exchange for the debt to be forgotten). During the two trials, an overwhelming amount of accounts and witnesses accumulated, and Elizabeth's bloody reign was dragged into the light from the dark dungeons of Čachtice Castle. Bodies were examined and proven to have endured torture, while other pieces of evidence such as the

countess's diary was never found; a maid had claimed to have seen the number six hundred and fifty written within it, assuming that it was the number of Elizabeth's unfortunate victims. Elizabeth was found guilty and as punishment confined within the dark walls of Čachtice Castle where she was walled into a brick cage with no windows, with only food, drink and air able to leave and enter. For the last four years of her life, she was buried alive, forgotten, and left in Čachtice's darkness. Even after her death she was denied from re-entering society as the local villagers refused to let her be buried in their cemetery.



The coat of arms of the Báthory Family

A statue of Erzsébet Báthory Čachtice in the north-western part of Slovakia

ELON MUSK'S PHILOSOPHY

THINKING FROM FIRST PRINCIPLES

BY CHRIS KOSEDA

What does Elon Musk do?

In January 2021, Elon Musk became the wealthiest person to ever exist with a net worth of \$197 billion. His entrepreneurial career began when he dropped out of college and founded the company *Zip2* and later co-founded *PayPal* in 2000 which later sold to Ebay for \$1.5 billion. Elon went on to purchase *Tesla motors* and found many more companies such as *SpaceX* and *The Boring Company*. In January 2021, Elon Musk overtook the founder of *Amazon*, Jeff Bezos, as the richest person in the world. However, as of March 2021 he ranks 3rd with a net worth of £150 billion, after Tesla stocks fell 21%.

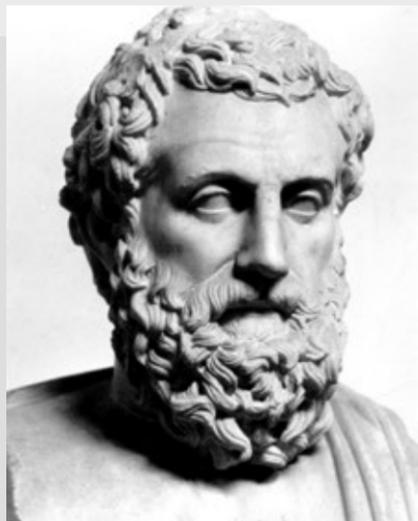


Elon Musk

Why was Elon Musk able to become successful?

Elon Musk was able to achieve his success due to many factors. One important factor was that he was able to study and eventually become a citizen of the United States, of the most prosperous countries in the world. This is significant because it allowed him to harness his potential through a dynamic, capitalist, free economy which promotes innovation. As a result, Elon contributed back to society through revolutionary technologies, such as the electric car and complex space technologies.

However, the most consequential reason why Elon Musk was able to achieve his success is due to his own personal philosophy, derived from the revolutionary Greek philosopher Aristotle, called "thinking from first principles".



Aristotle, 384 BC – 322 BC

What is thinking from first principles?

It is the philosophy of breaking down complicated problems into basic elements and then reassembling them from the ground up to solve problems.

What is a step by step guide to using this philosophy?

Step 1:

Identify what your current beliefs and bias are on the problem.

"What do I currently believe is true?"

Step 2:

Breakdown the problem into its fundamental principles through extensive research.

"What is the actual truth?"

"Why is that the truth?"

Step 3:

Create new solutions from scratch using the new information.

"What if?"

An example of Elon Musk using this guide to create the Lithium Ion battery pack:

Step 1:

Elon recognised his limiting beliefs and biases on the problem.

"Battery packs are really expensive and that's just the way they will always be. Historically, it has cost \$600 per kilowatt hour. It's not going to be much better than that in the future."

Step 2:

Elon broke down the problem and completed extensive research to find out the truth.

"What are the material constituents of the batteries? What is the stock market value of the material constituents?"

"It's got cobalt, nickel, aluminum, carbon, some polymers for separation and a seal can."

Step 3:

Elon used the information he researched and formulated new solutions to the problem.

"What If we bought that on the London Metal Exchange what would each of those things cost?"

"It's like \$80 per kilowatt hour"

"So clearly you just need to think of clever ways to take those materials and combine them into the shape of a battery cell and you can have batteries that are much, much cheaper than anyone realises."

Why is this philosophy so important?

It is evidently one of the best ways to learn to think for yourself, unlock your potential, and achieve fantastic results, and is used by many innovators and successful people. Hence to conclude "your mind is your greatest tool" so why not use it to generate wealth and lead a successful life? **It is your choice.**

ALBUM REVIEW

BY WARREN DELACRUZ

CLOSE TO THE EDGE (1972)

YES

GENRES: SYMPHONIC PROG, PROGRESSIVE ROCK

A triumph in the truest sense, Yes masters the art of world building through sound, in a fleeting but grand fashion.

Formed in 1969 in London, Yes wasn't one of the first progressive rock bands, but was seminal in the creation of progressive music's most immersive and most enveloping sub genre. Their brand of progressive music takes inspiration from the baroque and classical periods of music, similar to 'symphonic prog' bands like Emerson Lake & Palmer, Genesis and Camel, combining complex instrumentation, lush keyboards and lyrics depicting fantasy literature and sci-fi.

By 1972 with their 4th album 'Fragile', Yes had already established themselves in the canon of progressive rock folklore, donning capes on live performances and Roger Dean's striking, fantastical artwork present in many of Yes's covers. With the magnitude of musical talent, an ear for experimentation and melody, Yes's music doesn't just create landscapes, it creates entire realms, with you the listener, obliged to explore every aspect of it. Their 5th album was released in the same year, expanding what was on previous releases.

The first venture into the expansive world of Close to the Edge is

a 4 part, 18 minute suite. Serene bird sounds and electronics is followed by Steve Howe's agged, writhing guitar, laying out the first landscape of the album, transitioning into a soaring guitar melody, moving from the jungle into the sky within the first 4 minutes. A seamless, fluid jam session follows, tight knit groove provided by bassist Chris Squire, and drummer Bill Bruford, sketching the outline for vocalist Jon Anderson to colour in with his harmonic vocal lines and trademark mystic lyricism.

'THE APPEAL OF THIS ALBUM COMES DOWN TO THE UNIQUENESS OF THE EXPERIENCE, NOT A CONSENSUS.'

I love the way Anderson foreshadows lyrics later in the track, which serves to heighten the impact when that particular moment finally arrives. My favourite moment on this album and my personal experience listening to music, is on the third part 'I Get Up, I Get Down', a refrain with beach boys style harmonising and lush piano crescendoing into a majestic, monumental church organ, culminating into one of rock's most ethereal and spiritual



moments, finally ending on one of its most triumphant, all in the space of one album side.

The second track 'And you and I' starts with layered acoustic guitars, before traditional rock instrumentation finally seeps in. While coming in at 'only' 10 minutes, the 2nd track explores the soundscape differently to the fluctuating title track, with interchanging moments of flashy rock music and serene acoustic folk, ascending and descending rather than expanding, it offers a simpler, different flavour to the title track, while maintaining Yes's maximalist approach to their music, recapitulating the initial acoustic passage before moving onto the third and final track 'Siberian Khatru' which feels like a rather anticlimactic conclusion to the epics that preceded it. Initiating the 8 minute long finale is a discofied blues guitar lick, into a heavy groove, the final track more based on the pop side of Yes's palate, bringing the music back down to earth and back home, more end credits rather than the epic conclusion promised by the previous tracks.

In a genre defining 38 minutes, Yes explores the boundaries of musicianship and song structure as far as accessible rock music goes. For all its experimentation, melody and musical sweetness remains their utmost priority, always subverting, and always on the cusp, but never crossing the boundary. There's not a lot more to say about it – accessible, versatile, triumphant – Yes's Close to the Edge remains one of rock music's greatest feats, a gateway for those looking for challenging but satisfying music, and a fine entry into its most iconic genres.

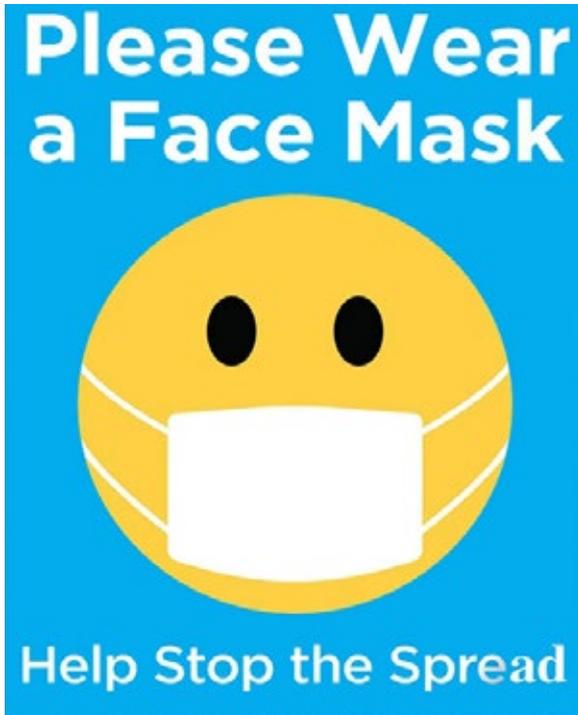


'YES'S MUSIC DOESN'T JUST CREATE LANDSCAPES, IT CREATES ENTIRE REALMS, WITH YOU THE LISTENER, OBLIGED TO EXPLORE EVERY ASPECT OF IT'



YES in concert, 1977

IMPORTANT NOTICES:



Keep it clean!



GET INVOLVED IN THE NEXT EDITION!

CALL FOR STUDENT VOICES!



Be a part of the STUDENT magazine
THE CHACE CHRONICLE.

Are you passionate and willing to **SHARE** your...
OPINIONS, PROJECTS, ARTWORK, HOBBIES, ACHIEVEMENTS?

Want to be part of the **TEAM** and gain great **EXPERIENCE?**

Email contributions/ role interest
to
theodora-thomas@chace.enfield.sch.uk